

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SPECIALISTS

Public Involvement is not an adjunct to our transportation mission but rather integral to the success of that mission. Without meaningful public involvement, we risk making less than optional decisions. With it, we can make a lasting contribution to the well being of our cities, our towns, our neighborhoods and our communities.

Public involvement is more than an agency requirement, more than a means of fulfilling a statutory obligation. True public involvement is central to good decision making. INDOT's Office of Public Involvement promotes the proactive engagement of project stakeholders in an effort to keep our customers informed and made aware of project developments, milestones and key decision making points, while creating avenues in which the public may express concerns and have those concerns addressed.

INDOT Public Involvement Specialists utilize many public involvement tools in which to engage their respective project stakeholder groups and to solicit for those groups. Project newsletters, websites, small groups meetings are just a few ways these specialists work with a given community in regards to INDOT projects. By proactively engaging project stakeholders, public involvement specialists enhance INDOT's ability to fully consider public input as we implement transportation solutions that improve safety and efficiency, protect natural and human environments, and contribute to community vitality.

Engaging the public is an essential part of successful project development and begins during long-range transportation system planning and programming. With NEPA-inspired public involvement and integration of results into transportation decision making, we can create better projects that fulfill community vision. As we involve the public, we do even more than improve transportation project development and decision making; we strengthen our democracy, helping individual members of the public to realize their responsibilities as citizens and helping each of us to fulfill our obligations to one another and to a shared future.

INDOT Public Involvement Specialists work closely with INDOT District and Central Office personnel to proactively engage project stakeholders. Roles and responsibilities vary but typically include the following:

(1) Responding to public inquiries and project related correspondence, (2) publishing project newsletters, (3) facilitation, coordination and/or assisting in Community Advisory Committee (CAC) development, (4) coordination/identification/development of project specific websites, (5) small group presentations, (6) attending public hearings / information meetings, (7) overall engagement of project stakeholders.

For more information regarding INDOT Public Involvement Specialists, please utilize the contact information below:

1. Annette Cousert, INDOT Public Involvement Director, 100 North Senate Avenue, Room N642, Indianapolis, Indiana (317) 234-3534; e-mail: acousert@indot.in.gov

2. Aimee Bennett, INDOT Public Involvement Director, 100 North Senate Avenue, Room N642, Indianapolis, Indiana (317) 234-4938; e-mail: abennett@indot.in.gov

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION